

Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee

January 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Committee: Dave Boyd, Donna Hartmann-Miller, Ross Maddalena, Michael Maddux, Pete Spalding, Alec Stephens

Staff: Cheryl Eastberg, Susan Golub, Michael Shiosaki, Jennifer Weiland (Seattle Department of Transportation)

Committee Business

- The minutes from the October 28, 2013 meeting were approved.

Director's Report

Michael Shiosaki, Director of Parks Planning and Development Division, provided the Committee with an update:

- Department Staff Changes: Kevin Stoops, Parks Finance Division Director and previously Director of the Planning and Development Division, recently retired. Michele Finnegan, current Recreation Division Director, has been named the new Finance Director. Kelly Guy is our new Recreation Division Director, coming to Parks from the Casey Family Foundation. And Hazel Bhang Barnett is our new Human Resources Director.
- Division Staff Changes: Within Planning and Development, Chris Jewell, the Construction Manager recently retired; as did Linda Hubert, the Major Maintenance Manager. The Division is currently hiring for these positions.
- Acquisitions
 - Little Saigon – acquisition underway
 - Greenwood Park Addition – moving forward
 - Baker Park Addition – moving forward
 - 48th & Charlestown – appraisals underway with a willing seller.
- Development Projects
 - Victor Steinbrueck Park – coordinating the Levy work at Victor Steinbrueck with the central waterfront redevelopment and the Pike Market development of PC1

- Gas Works Park Play Area – planning is started for a project complicated because of contaminated soil and a landmarked site
- Westcrest Park – West Seattle Reservoir -- successfully bid late last year and the contract has been awarded with construction beginning in March and an October completion date
- Santos Rodriguez Play Area at El Centro de la Raza – project completed and was successful because the park looks and operates like a public space
- Bell Street Park – about to open all 4 blocks with a formal dedication planned for the end of March – the project looks wonderful and beats expectations
- Hubbard Homestead Skatespot – bid and awarded for the project last summer but ran into City Department of Planning and Development stormwater permit issues requiring a redesign of the stormwater system.

Shoreline Street Ends

Cheryl Eastberg, Parks Manager of the Shoreline Street Ends Project, presented the Committee with information about Levy funded shoreline street end improvements.

- The 2008 Parks & Green Spaces Levy provides \$500,000 to develop street-ends, owned by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), to provide publicly accessible shoreline.
- The purpose of the shoreline street end development is to:
 - Improve shoreline access and enjoyment
 - Protect views and enhance shoreline habitat
 - Encourage community stewardship
 - Provide physical or visual access to the shoreline
 - Open several more publicly-owned street ends
- Sustainability is a goal of the program, with minimal site disruption, the use of native plants and the use of durable, low maintenance materials incorporated into designs
- The 11 Locations to be developed were selected by the Parks and Green Spaces Levy planning group from the total inventory of 149 street ends, using the following criteria:
 - Shoreline access gap
 - Near multi-family or urban village
 - Near bicycle route or trail
 - Supported by other Seattle plans.
- Eight projects have been completed:
 1. SW Bronson Way (West Seattle)
 2. S Fidalgo Street (Duwamish/Georgetown)
 3. Spokane Street (east side of West Seattle Bridge)
 4. S. Oregon St (Duwamish/Georgetown)
 5. 72nd Ave S (Rainier Beach)

6. 75th Ave S (Rainier Beach)
 7. McGraw St (Magnolia)
 8. 36th Ave NW (Ballard).
- Projects for 2014 are:
 1. 20th Ave NW (Ballard)
 2. S Riverside Dr (South Park)
 3. 1 to be determined
 - The program is a partnership with SDOT and other organizations: Friends of Street Ends and the Seattle Parks Foundation have provided significant support allowing the program to leverage almost \$500,000
 - Signs indicating public access at street ends are provided by SDOT; they have plans to do more with signage to let the public know about the sites
 - The Oversight Committee suggested putting the signs along the street – not just at the street end – so that people would know there is public access
 - Street end project costs vary, with more involved projects such as Magnolia costing about \$30-40,000, and smaller, more typical projects costing \$7-8,000.

Development Project Update

Rick Nishi, Parks Development Projects Manager, updated the Committee on the status of Levy development projects.

- In the early years of the Levy, 2009-10, play area projects had great bids because contractors were desperate for work
- The Final Levy Report will put the meat on the bones of the story the numbers alone can't tell
- Spray Parks cost more than anticipated because of the things we learned during design development; plus health permit issues required more mechanical systems that Parks had originally estimated
- Funds remaining in the inflation category are on hold until current projects – Gas Works Play Area, Steinbrueck Park, Westcrest Park – are farther along
- Bids are now coming in higher than estimates, so there is the likelihood that some of the inflation funds will be needed for these projects
- A Committee member requested unspent funds be spent on unfinished parts of projects; for example, the sidewalk at the Maple Leaf Reservoir that ends in the middle of the block
 - A Committee member responded that a holistic look was needed at what funding remains when the final projects are substantially underway and what the funds could be spent on
 - Michael noted that sidewalks at Maple Leaf were not part of the bid/construction project and would be added as a new project element

- Other Committee members noted that there would be the same issue as raised with Maple Leaf with many other projects that had surplus funds and the money did not go back to the project
- The Committee requested that Rick return with a report which includes, not only the actual spending amounts that were presented at this meeting, but also show what additional, non-levy funding projects received.

Committee Business

The next meeting will be March 24.